

1 **WO**

2

3

4

5

6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

8

9

10 Peter E. Waswa,) No. CV 11-1046-PHX-RCB (MEA)

11 Plaintiff,) **ORDER**

12 vs.)

13 Corrections Corporation of America, et al.,)

14 Defendants.)

15 _____

16 Plaintiff Peter E. Waswa, who is confined in the Eloy Detention Center in Eloy,

17 Arizona, has filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983¹ (Doc. 1) and

18 an Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 2). The Court will dismiss the

19 Complaint with leave to amend.

20 **I. Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* and Filing Fee**

21 Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* will be granted. Because

22 Plaintiff is an immigration detainee, he is not subject to the provisions of the Prison

23 Litigation Reform Act and will be allowed to proceed without payment of the filing fee.

24

25

26 _____

27 ¹Although Plaintiff brought this action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the Court notes

28 that the named defendants are federal actors, not state actors. Therefore, Plaintiff's action is more appropriately brought as an action pursuant Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics, 403 U.S. 388 (1971), and will be treated as such.

1 Andrews v. King, 398 F.3d 1113, 1122 (9th Cir. 2005); Agyeman v. INS, 296 F.3d 871, 885-
2 86 (9th Cir. 2002).

3 **II. Statutory Screening**

4 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2), in a case in which a plaintiff has been granted *in*
5 *forma pauperis status*, the Court

6 shall dismiss the case at any time if the court determines that . . .
7 the action or appeal—(i) is frivolous or malicious; (ii) fails to
8 state a claim on which relief may be granted; or (iii) seeks
monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such
relief.

9 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

10 A pleading must contain a “short and plain statement of the claim *showing* that the
11 pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2) (emphasis added). While Rule 8 does not
12 demand detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-
13 unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009).
14 “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory
15 statements, do not suffice.” Id.

16 “[A] complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a
17 claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” Id. (quoting Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly,
18 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is plausible “when the plaintiff pleads factual content
19 that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the
20 misconduct alleged.” Id. “Determining whether a complaint states a plausible claim for
21 relief [is] . . . a context-specific task that requires the reviewing court to draw on its judicial
22 experience and common sense.” Id. at 1950. Thus, although a plaintiff’s specific factual
23 allegations may be consistent with a constitutional claim, a court must assess whether there
24 are other “more likely explanations” for a defendant’s conduct. Id. at 1951.

25 But as the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has instructed, courts
26 must “continue to construe *pro se* filings liberally.” Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th
27 Cir. 2010). A “complaint [filed by a *pro se* prisoner] ‘must be held to less stringent standards
28

1 than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.” Id. (quoting Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89,
2 94 (2007) (*per curiam*)).

3 If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the allegation of other facts,
4 a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint before dismissal of the
5 action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000) (*en banc*). The Court
6 should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type of advice “would
7 undermine district judges’ role as impartial decisionmakers.” Pliler v. Ford, 542 U.S. 225,
8 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide whether the court was
9 required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for
10 failure to state a claim, with leave to amend because the Complaint may possibly be saved
11 by amendment.

12 **III. Complaint**

13 In his three-count Complaint, Plaintiff sues the following Defendants: Corrections
14 Corporation of America, Sergeants Rodreigaz and Haynes, and Correctional Officer S. Jolly.
15 In his Request for Relief, Plaintiff seeks monetary damages.

16 **IV. Failure to State a Claim**

17 Although *pro se* pleadings are liberally construed, Haines v. Kerner, 404 U.S. 519,
18 520-21 (1972), conclusory and vague allegations will not support a cause of action. Ivey v.
19 Board of Regents of the University of Alaska, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982). Further,
20 a liberal interpretation of a civil rights complaint may not supply essential elements of the
21 claim that were not initially pled. Id.

22 **A. Failure to Link Defendant with Injuries**

23 To state a valid claim under § 1983 or Bivens, plaintiffs must allege that they suffered
24 a specific injury as a result of specific conduct of a defendant and show an affirmative link
25 between the injury and the conduct of that defendant. See Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362,
26 371-72, 377 (1976). There is no *respondeat superior* liability under § 1983 or Bivens, and
27 therefore, a defendant’s position as the supervisor of persons who allegedly violated
28 Plaintiff’s constitutional rights does not impose liability. Monell v. New York City

1 Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658, 691-92 (1978); Hamilton v. Endell, 981 F.2d
 2 1062, 1067 (9th Cir. 1992); Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989). “Because
 3 vicarious liability is inapplicable to Bivens and § 1983 suits, a plaintiff must plead that each
 4 Government-official defendant, through the official’s own individual actions, has violated
 5 the Constitution.” Iqbal, 129 S. Ct. at 1448.

6 Plaintiff has not alleged that Defendants Corrections Corporation of America and
 7 Haynes personally participated in a deprivation of Plaintiff’s constitutional rights, were
 8 aware of a deprivation and failed to act, or formed policies that resulted in Plaintiff’s injuries.
 9 Plaintiff has made no allegations at all against Defendants Corrections Corporation of
 10 America and Haynes. Thus, the Court will dismiss without prejudice Defendants Corrections
 11 Corporation of America and Haynes.

12 **B. Count One**

13 In Count One, Plaintiff alleges a “civil right violation” regarding a threat to his safety.
 14 Plaintiff claims that he was “f[ir]st to use the phone,” but Defendant Rodreigaz gave the
 15 phone to another detainee. Plaintiff asserts that he complained to Defendant Rodreigaz, who
 16 called Plaintiff a name, and that, thereafter, Defendant Rodreigaz and his coworkers started
 17 “pointing on [Plaintiff],” harassing him, and “wa[t]ching [Plaintiff] very c[a]re[]full[y].” He
 18 claims that he is “reporting them[,] so anything [he] do[es, he] ha[s] to be very, very
 19 c[a]re[]ful[.]”

20 Section 1983 and Bivens provide a cause of action against persons acting under color
 21 of state law who have violated rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and
 22 federal law. 42 U.S.C. § 1983; see also Buckley v. City of Redding, 66 F.3d 188, 190 (9th
 23 Cir. 1995). In Count One, Plaintiff does not specify what “civil right” he believes Defendant
 24 Rodreigaz violated. Even if he had, however, calling Plaintiff a name does not violate the
 25 Constitution. Oltarzewski v. Ruggiero, 830 F.2d 136, 139 (9th Cir. 1987) (“[v]erbal
 26 harassment or abuse . . . is not sufficient to state a constitutional deprivation under 42 U.S.C.
 27 § 1983” (quoting Collins v. Cundy, 603 F.2d 825, 827 (10th Cir. 1979))). Nor does it
 28 violate the Constitution when correctional officers watch detainees carefully. In addition,

1 Plaintiff's allegations that Defendant Rodreigaz and his coworkers were "pointing on"
2 Plaintiff and harassing him are too vague and conclusory to state a claim. Therefore, the
3 Court will dismiss without prejudice Count One.

4 **C. Count Two**

5 In Count Two, Plaintiff claims that he has been subjected to racial discrimination and
6 obscene language. Plaintiff alleges he greeted an individual (presumably a prison official)
7 whom he had not seen for some time, the individual instructed him not to speak and used a
8 racial epithet, and he was later called into an office by the individual, another correctional
9 officer, and two lieutenants. Plaintiff contends that the individual used obscene language and
10 told Plaintiff not to bother her and that one of the lieutenants told Plaintiff not to discuss the
11 incident. On Plaintiff's way back from that meeting, Defendant Jolly asked Plaintiff what
12 had occurred and became angry when Plaintiff informed Defendant Jolly that he was not
13 permitted to discuss the issue. Plaintiff alleges that since that time, Defendant Jolly has been
14 "disre[s]pecting" and harassing Plaintiff.

15 Plaintiff does not identify the individual who used a racial epithet. But, even if he
16 had, that individual's verbal abuse and Defendant Jolly's "disre[s]pecting" of Plaintiff do not
17 violate the Constitution. Oltarzewski. In addition, Plaintiff's allegations in Count Two that
18 Defendant Jolly harassed him are too vague and conclusory to state a claim. Thus, the Court
19 will dismiss without prejudice Count Two.

20 **D. Count Three**

21 In Count Three, Plaintiff alleges that he has been subject to a threat to his safety by
22 Defendant Jolly. Plaintiff claims that Defendant Jolly has been harassing him by
23 (1) threatening to have other detainees "jump beat" Plaintiff while he was in the shower and
24 (2) asking Plaintiff about whether he had eaten certain foods. Plaintiff also asserts that he
25 ended up in the special housing unit because Defendant Jolly claimed that Plaintiff had
26 threatened to kill him, although Plaintiff had actually threatened to "write [Defendant Jolly]
27 up." Plaintiff contends that while he was in the special housing unit, Defendant Jolly told
28 Plaintiff that he would "write up some more" to keep Plaintiff in the special housing unit if

1 Plaintiff did not “do what he like.” Plaintiff contends that he was required to strip, lift his
2 testicles, turn around, bend over, and cough three times. Plaintiff contends that he was
3 sexually exposed and harassed.

4 Plaintiff has failed to allege any constitutional or federal-law violations in Count
5 Three. Moreover, Plaintiff’s allegations are vague, jumbled, and confusing. To the extent
6 Plaintiff contends that Defendant Jolly asked about Plaintiff’s diet, threatened to have others
7 “jump beat” Plaintiff, and threatened to “write up” further allegations against Plaintiff, he has
8 failed to state a claim. See Oltarzewski; Gaut v. Sunn, 810 F.2d 923, 925 (9th Cir. 1987)
9 (defendants’ threats of bodily harm to convince plaintiff not to pursue legal redress were
10 insufficient to state a claim under § 1983; “it trivializes the eighth amendment to believe a
11 threat constitutes a constitutional wrong”).

12 To the extent Plaintiff is claiming that he was placed in special housing unit after he
13 told Defendant Jolly that he intended to write up Defendant Jolly, he has failed to state a
14 claim. A viable claim of First Amendment retaliation contains five basic elements: (1) an
15 assertion that a state actor took some adverse action against an inmate (2) because of (3) that
16 prisoner’s protected conduct, and that such action (4) chilled the inmate’s exercise of his First
17 Amendment rights (or that the inmate suffered more than minimal harm) and (5) did not
18 reasonably advance a legitimate correctional goal. Rhodes v. Robinson, 408 F.3d 559, 567-
19 68 (9th Cir. 2005); see also Hines v. Gomez, 108 F.3d 265, 267 (9th Cir. 1997) (retaliation
20 claims requires an inmate to show (1) that the prison official acted in retaliation for the
21 exercise of a constitutionally protected right, and (2) that the action “advanced no legitimate
22 penological interest”). The plaintiff has the burden of demonstrating that his exercise of his
23 First Amendment rights was a substantial or motivating factor behind the defendants’
24 conduct. Mt. Healthy City School Dist. Bd. of Educ. v. Doyle, 429 U.S. 274, 287 (1977);
25 Soranno’s Gasco, Inc. v. Morgan, 874 F.2d 1310, 1314 (9th Cir. 1989). Plaintiff does not
26 allege that his First Amendment rights were chilled or that he suffered more than minimal
27 harm and he does not allege that placing him in the special housing unit did not reasonably
28 advance a legitimate penological interest.

1 Finally, although the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects
 2 against the imposition of “punishment” prior to an adjudication of guilt, a detainee may be
 3 subjected to “the restrictions and conditions of the detention facility so long as those
 4 conditions and restrictions to not amount to punishment.” Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520,
 5 535-37 (1979). “[I]f a particular condition or restriction of pretrial detention is reasonably
 6 related to a legitimate governmental objective, it does not, without more, amount to
 7 ‘punishment.’” Id. at 539. “[M]aintaining institutional security and preserving internal order
 8 and discipline are essential goals that may require limitation or retraction of the retained
 9 constitutional rights of both convicted prisoners and pretrial detainees.” Id. at 546.

10 It is unclear from Plaintiff’s vague and conclusory allegations whether Plaintiff was
 11 subjected to the strip searches as harassment or as part of the procedures for being
 12 transported in and out of his cell. Although inmates are protected from searches that are
 13 performed solely for “calculated harassment unrelated to prison needs,” see Hudson v.
 14 Palmer, 468 U.S. 517, 530 (1984); Vigliotto v. Terry, 873 F.2d 1201, 1203 (9th Cir. 1989),
 15 strip searches serve a legitimate penological purpose so long as a prisoner has any
 16 opportunity to obtain contraband or a weapon outside his cell. See Michenfelder v. Sumner,
 17 860 F.2d 328, 332-33 (9th Cir. 1988) (visual body cavity searches of inmates in restrictive
 18 unit were not excessive, even when done every time inmate entered or left the cell).

19 Therefore, the Court will dismiss without prejudice Count Three.

20 **V. Leave to Amend**

21 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s Complaint will be dismissed for failure to state
 22 a claim upon which relief may be granted. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first
 23 amended complaint to cure the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail
 24 Plaintiff a court-approved form to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails
 25 to use the court-approved form, the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this
 26 action without further notice to Plaintiff.

27 Plaintiff must clearly designate on the face of the document that it is the “First
 28 Amended Complaint.” The first amended complaint must be retyped or rewritten in its

entirety on the court-approved form and may not incorporate any part of the original Complaint by reference. Plaintiff may include only one claim per count.

If Plaintiff files an amended complaint, Plaintiff must write short, plain statements telling the Court: (1) the constitutional right Plaintiff believes was violated; (2) the name of the Defendant who violated the right; (3) exactly what that Defendant did or failed to do; (4) how the action or inaction of that Defendant is connected to the violation of Plaintiff's constitutional right; and (5) what specific injury Plaintiff suffered because of that Defendant's conduct. See *Rizzo*, 423 U.S. at 371-72, 377.

Plaintiff must repeat this process for each person he names as a Defendant. If Plaintiff fails to affirmatively link the conduct of each named Defendant with the specific injury suffered by Plaintiff, the allegations against that Defendant will be dismissed for failure to state a claim. **Conclusory allegations that a Defendant or group of Defendants have violated a constitutional right are not acceptable and will be dismissed.**

A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); *Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co.*, 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as nonexistent. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. *King v. Atiyeh*, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

VI. Warnings

A. Address Changes

Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this action.

....

....

....

B. Copies

Plaintiff must submit an additional copy of every filing for use by the Court. See LRCiv 5.4. Failure to comply may result in the filing being stricken without further notice to Plaintiff.

C. Possible Dismissal

If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. See *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61 (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the Court).

IT IS ORDERED:


(1) Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. 2) is **granted**.

(2) The Complaint (Doc. 1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with this Order.

(3) If Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint within 30 days, the Clerk of Court must, without further notice, enter a judgment of dismissal of this action without prejudice.

(4) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil rights complaint by a prisoner.

DATED this 13th day of June, 2011.


Robert C. Broomfield
Senior United States District Judge

**Instructions for a Prisoner Filing a Civil Rights Complaint
in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona**

1. Who May Use This Form. The civil rights complaint form is designed to help incarcerated persons prepare a complaint seeking relief for a violation of their federal civil rights. These complaints typically concern, but are not limited to, conditions of confinement. **This form should not be used to challenge your conviction or sentence.** If you want to challenge a state conviction or sentence, you should file a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody. If you want to challenge a federal conviction or sentence, you should file a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate sentence in the federal court that entered the judgment.
2. The Form. **Local Rule of Civil Procedure (LRCiv) 3.4(a) provides that complaints by incarcerated persons must be filed on the court-approved form.** The form must be typed or neatly handwritten. The form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. All questions must be answered clearly and concisely in the appropriate space on the form. If needed, you may attach additional pages, **but no more than fifteen additional pages**, of standard letter-sized paper. You must identify which part of the complaint is being continued and number all pages. If you do not fill out the form properly, you will be asked to submit additional or corrected information, which may delay the processing of your action. You do not need to cite law.
3. Your Signature. You must tell the truth and sign the form. If you make a false statement of a material fact, you may be prosecuted for perjury.
4. The Filing Fee. The filing fee for this action is \$350.00. If you are unable to immediately pay the filing fee, you may request leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Please review the “Information for Prisoners Seeking Leave to Proceed with a (Non-Habeas) Civil Action in Federal Court *In Forma Pauperis* Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915” for additional instructions.
5. Original and Judge’s Copy. You must send an **original plus one copy** of your complaint and of any other documents submitted to the Court. You must send one additional copy to the Court if you wish to have a file-stamped copy of the document returned to you. All copies must be identical to the original. Copies may be legibly handwritten.
6. Where to File. You should file your complaint in the division **where you were confined when your rights were allegedly violated.** See LRCiv 5.1(a) and 77.1(a). If you were confined in Maricopa, Pinal, Yuma, La Paz, or Gila County, file in the Phoenix Division. If you were confined in Apache, Navajo, Coconino, Mohave, or Yavapai County, file in the Prescott Division. If you were confined in Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham, or Greenlee County, file in the Tucson Division. **Mail the original and one copy of the complaint with the \$350 filing fee or the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* to:**

Phoenix & Prescott Divisions:
U.S. District Court Clerk
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 130
401 West Washington Street, SPC 10
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2119

OR

Tucson Division:
U.S. District Court Clerk
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 1500
405 West Congress Street
Tucson, Arizona 85701-5010

7. Change of Address. You must immediately notify the Court and the defendants in writing of any change in your mailing address. **Failure to notify the Court of any change in your mailing address may result in the dismissal of your case.**

8. Certificate of Service. You must furnish the defendants with a copy of any document you submit to the Court (except the initial complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*). Each original document (except the initial complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*) must include a certificate of service on the last page of the document stating the date a copy of the document was mailed to the defendants and the address to which it was mailed. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(a), (d). Any document received by the Court that does not include a certificate of service may be stricken. A certificate of service should be in the following form:

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was mailed
this _____ (month, day, year) to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Attorney for Defendant(s)

(Signature)

9. Amended Complaint. If you need to change any of the information in the initial complaint, you must file an amended complaint. The amended complaint must be written on the court-approved civil rights complaint form. You may file one amended complaint without leave (permission) of Court before any defendant has answered your original complaint. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). After any defendant has filed an answer, you must file a motion for leave to amend and lodge (submit) a proposed amended complaint. LRCiv 15.1. In addition, an amended complaint may not incorporate by reference any part of your prior complaint. LRCiv 15.1(a)(2). **Any allegations or defendants not included in the amended complaint are considered dismissed.** All amended complaints are subject to screening under the Prison Litigation Reform Act; screening your amendment will take additional processing time.

10. Exhibits. You should not submit exhibits with the complaint or amended complaint. Instead, the relevant information should be paraphrased. You should keep the exhibits to use to support or oppose a motion to dismiss, a motion for summary judgment, or at trial.

11. Letters and Motions. It is generally inappropriate to write a letter to any judge or the staff of any judge. The only appropriate way to communicate with the Court is by filing a written pleading or motion.

12. Completing the Civil Rights Complaint Form.

HEADING:

1. Your Name. Print your name, prison or inmate number, and institutional mailing address on the lines provided.
2. Defendants. If there are **four or fewer** defendants, print the name of each. If you name **more than four** defendants, print the name of the first defendant on the first line, write the words “and others” on the second line, and attach an additional page listing the names of **all** of the defendants. Insert the additional page after page 1 and number it “1-A” at the bottom.
3. Jury Demand. If you want a jury trial, you must write “JURY TRIAL DEMANDED” in the space below “CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT BY A PRISONER.” Failure to do so may result in the loss of the right to a jury trial. A jury trial is not available if you are seeking only injunctive relief.

Part A. JURISDICTION:

1. Nature of Suit. Mark whether you are filing the complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for state, county, or city defendants; “Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents” for federal defendants; or “other.” If you mark “other,” identify the source of that authority.
2. Location. Identify the institution and city where the alleged violation of your rights occurred.
3. Defendants. Print all of the requested information about each of the defendants in the spaces provided. If you are naming more than four defendants, you must provide the necessary information about each additional defendant on separate pages labeled “2-A,” “2-B,” etc., at the bottom. Insert the additional page(s) immediately behind page 2.

Part B. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS:

You must identify any other lawsuit you have filed in either state or federal court while you were a prisoner. Print all of the requested information about each lawsuit in the spaces provided. If you have filed more than three lawsuits, you must provide the necessary information about each additional lawsuit on a separate page. Label the page(s) as “2-A,” “2-B,” etc., at the bottom of the page and insert the additional page(s) immediately behind page 2.

Part C. CAUSE OF ACTION:

You must identify what rights each defendant violated. The form provides space to allege three separate counts (**one violation per count**). If you are alleging more than three counts, you must provide the necessary information about each additional count on a separate page. Number the additional pages “5-A,” “5-B,” etc., and insert them immediately behind page 5. Remember that you are limited to a total of fifteen additional pages.

1. **Counts.** You must identify which civil right was violated. **You may allege the violation of only one civil right per count.**
2. **Issue Involved.** Check the box that most closely identifies the issue involved in your claim. **You may check only one box per count.** If you check the box marked “Other,” you must identify the specific issue involved.
3. **Supporting Facts.** After you have identified which civil right was violated, you must state the supporting facts. Be as specific as possible. You must state what each individual defendant did to violate your rights. If there is more than one defendant, you must identify which defendant did what act. You also should state the date(s) on which the act(s) occurred, if possible.
4. **Injury.** State precisely how you were injured by the alleged violation of your rights.
5. **Administrative Remedies.** You must exhaust any available administrative remedies before you file a civil rights complaint. See 42 U.S.C. § 1997e. Consequently, you should disclose whether you have exhausted the inmate grievance procedures or administrative appeals for each count in your complaint. If the grievance procedures were not available for any of your counts, fully explain why on the lines provided.

Part D. REQUEST FOR RELIEF:

Print the relief you are seeking in the space provided.

SIGNATURE:

You must sign your name and print the date you signed the complaint. Failure to sign the complaint will delay the processing of your action. Unless you are an attorney, you may not bring an action on behalf of anyone but yourself.

FINAL NOTE

You should follow these instructions carefully. Failure to do so may result in your complaint being stricken or dismissed. All questions must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. If you need more space, you may attach no more than fifteen additional pages. But the form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. If you attach additional pages, be sure to identify which section of the complaint is being continued and number the pages.

B. DEFENDANTS

1. Name of first Defendant: _____. The first Defendant is employed as:

(Position and Title) at _____
(Institution)
2. Name of second Defendant: _____. The second Defendant is employed as:

(Position and Title) at _____
(Institution)
3. Name of third Defendant: _____. The third Defendant is employed as:

(Position and Title) at _____
(Institution)
4. Name of fourth Defendant: _____. The fourth Defendant is employed as:

(Position and Title) at _____
(Institution)

If you name more than four Defendants, answer the questions listed above for each additional Defendant on a separate page.

C. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS

1. Have you filed any other lawsuits while you were a prisoner? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If yes, how many lawsuits have you filed? _____. Describe the previous lawsuits:
 - a. First prior lawsuit:
 1. Parties: _____ v. _____
 2. Court and case number: _____
 3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) _____
 - b. Second prior lawsuit:
 1. Parties: _____ v. _____
 2. Court and case number: _____
 3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) _____
 - c. Third prior lawsuit:
 1. Parties: _____ v. _____
 2. Court and case number: _____
 3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) _____

If you filed more than three lawsuits, answer the questions listed above for each additional lawsuit on a separate page.

COUNT III

1. State the constitutional or other federal civil right that was violated: _____.
2. **Count III.** Identify the issue involved. Check **only one**. State additional issues in separate counts.
☐ Basic necessities ☐ Mail ☐ Access to the court ☐ Medical care
☐ Disciplinary proceedings ☐ Property ☐ Exercise of religion ☐ Retaliation
☐ Excessive force by an officer ☐ Threat to safety ☐ Other: _____.
3. **Supporting Facts.** State as briefly as possible the FACTS supporting Count III. Describe exactly what each Defendant did or did not do that violated your rights. State the facts clearly in your own words without citing legal authority or arguments.

_____.
4. **Injury.** State how you were injured by the actions or inactions of the Defendant(s).

_____.
5. **Administrative Remedies.**
- a. Are there any administrative remedies (grievance procedures or administrative appeals) available at your institution? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count III? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count III to the highest level? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- d. If you did not submit or appeal a request for administrative relief at any level, briefly explain why you did not. _____.

If you assert more than three Counts, answer the questions listed above for each additional Count on a separate page.

E. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

State the relief you are seeking:

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on _____
DATE

SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF

(Name and title of paralegal, legal assistant, or
other person who helped prepare this complaint)

(Signature of attorney, if any)

(Attorney's address & telephone number)

ADDITIONAL PAGES

All questions must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. If you need more space, you may attach no more than fifteen additional pages. But the form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. If you attach additional pages, be sure to identify which section of the complaint is being continued and number all pages.